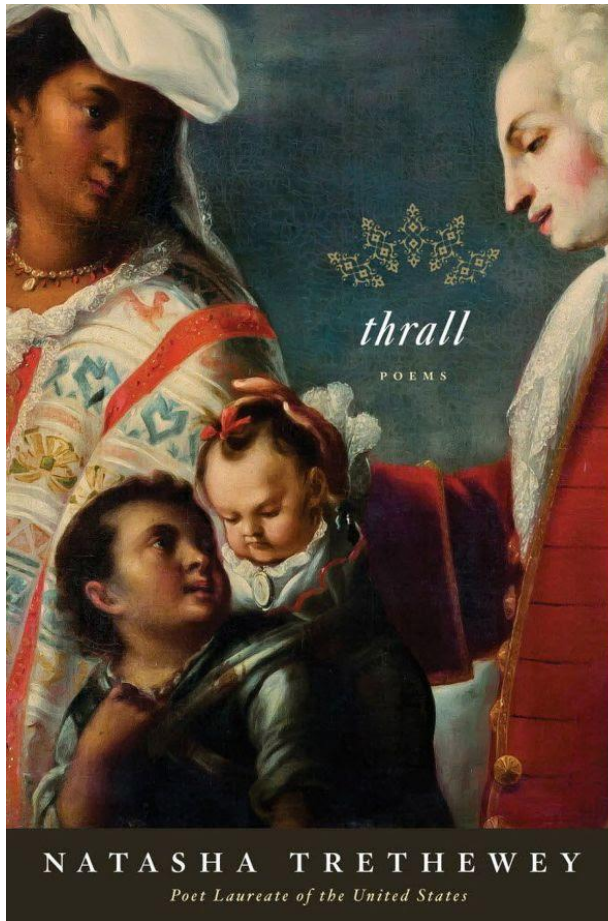


Reading with Pulitzer Prize–Winning Poet Natasha Trethewey and Conversation with Miguel A. Valerio and Ilona Katzew



Please join us on Wednesday, October 12, from 6–8 pm, for a special event with Pulitzer Prize–winning poet Natasha Trethewey in the galleries of [Archive of the World: Art and Imagination in Spanish America, 1500–1800](#).

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Natasha Trethewey will offer a reading in response to the casta paintings in the exhibition, followed by a lively discussion with distinguished scholars, Miguel A. Valerio, Assistant Professor of Spanish, Washington University in St. Louis, and author of *Sovereign Joy: Afro-Mexican Kings and Queens, 1539–1640*, and Ilona Katzew, Curator and Department Head, Latin American Art, LACMA, and author of *Casta Painting: Images of Race in Eighteenth-Century Mexico*.

A book signing with Natasha Trethewey will follow. Be sure to [RSVP @lacma.org/events](#) to get a spot at this special event!

Natasha Trethewey served two terms as the 19th Poet Laureate of the United States (2012–2014). She is the author of five collections of poetry: *Monument* (2018), which was longlisted for the 2018 National Book Award; *Thrall* (2012); *Native Guard* (2006), for which she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize; *Bellocq's Ophelia* (2002); and *Domestic Work* (2000), which was selected by Rita Dove as the winner of the inaugural Cave Canem Poetry Prize for the best first book by an African American poet and won both the 2001 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Book Prize and the 2001 Lillian Smith Award for Poetry. She is also the author of the memoir *Memorial Drive* (2020). Her book of nonfiction, *Beyond Katrina: A Meditation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast*, appeared in 2010. She is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Beinecke Library at Yale, and the Bunting Fellowship Program of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard. At Northwestern University she is a Board of Trustees Professor of English in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. In 2012 she was named Poet Laureate of the State of Mississippi and in 2013 she was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Ilona Katzew is Curator and Department Head of Latin American Art at LACMA. Recognized as one of the leading curators and scholars in her field, her areas of research include the depiction of race in Spanish America and the Atlantic world, New Spanish painting, the history of collecting, and the connection between global cultures in the early modern world. At LACMA she formed the collection of Spanish American art and has made highly visible acquisitions of modern and contemporary Latin American art. Her most recent exhibition *Archive of the World: Art and Imagination in Spanish America, 1500–1800* (2022) foregrounds the museum's notable holdings of viceregal art. She was project director and co-curator of *Painted in Mexico, 1700–1790: Pinxit Mexici* (2017–18), which traveled to the Met and Fomento Cultural Banamex, Mexico City. The show was selected by the *New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times* as one of the top exhibitions of the year, and the catalogue was awarded multiple prizes for scholarly excellence. She is the recipient of fellowships from the Met, the Getty, and Fulbright, among others. Her books, many award-winning, include *New World Orders: Casta Painting and Colonial Latin America* (1996), *Casta Painting: Images of Race in Eighteenth-Century Mexico* (2004), *Una visión del México del Siglo de las Luces: La Codificación de Joaquín Antonio de Basarás* (2006), *Race and Classification: The Case of Mexican America* (2009), *Contested Visions in the Spanish Colonial World* (2011), and *Painted in Mexico, 1700–1790: Pinxit Mexici* (2017). In 2018 she was selected among the top 20 international curators taking a cutting-edge approach to art history.

Miguel A. Valerio is a scholar of the African diaspora in Latin America and the Iberian Peninsula. He is Assistant Professor of Spanish, Washington University of St. Louis, where he teaches courses in Afro-colonial culture and contemporary Afro-Latin American literature and culture. His research has focused on Black Catholic brotherhoods or confraternities and Afro-creole festive practices in colonial Latin America, especially Mexico and Brazil, and has been published in various academic journals, including *Slavery and Abolition*, *Colonial Latin American Review*, *The Americas*, and *The Journal of Festive Studies*. He is the author of *Sovereign Joy: Afro-Mexican Kings and Queens, 1539–1640* (2022) and a co-editor of *Indigenous and Black Confraternities in Colonial Latin America: Negotiating Status through Religious Practices* (2022).